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Letter dated 8 May 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, in compliance with the commitment assumed by Ecuador under the Itamaraty Peace Declaration of 17 February 1995 and the Montevideo Peace Declaration of 28 February 1995, the process of separation and concentration at the Coangos border post (Ecuador) of the Ecuadorian military units that had remained in their positions in Alto Cenepa before and during the military conflict with Peru was completed on 2 May 1995.

With respect to the separation and concentration of forces, I should like to draw your attention to the following points:

(a) In the Itamaraty Peace Declaration, it was agreed that, as one way of achieving the peaceful settlement of the conflict, the military forces of Ecuador and Peru would be separated simultaneously in order to avoid a resumption of hostilities. In this regard, the Ecuadorian forces were to be concentrated at the Coangos border post and the Peruvian forces at guardpost No. 1.

(b) In this regard, it should be pointed out that the geographical coordinates of the Ecuadorian posts, including Tiwintza (03° 27' 57,18" latitude; 78° 15' 08,72" longitude) and Base Sur (03° 29' 51,03" latitude; 78° 14' 57,99" longitude), from which the Ecuadorian forces that have been concentrated at Coangos were withdrawn, were transmitted to the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol prior to the signing of the aforementioned Declarations. The coordinates are also contained in the April 1995 requests for the separation of forces sent by Major-General Cándido Vargas de Freire, Chief Coordinator of the Ecuador-Peru Military Observer Mission, to General César Durán Abad, Liaison Officer between Ecuador and the Mission.

(c) The Itamaraty Declaration provides, moreover, that the military observers of the guarantor countries are to set up centres of operations at points of greatest tension, as is the case of Tiwintza and Base Sur, with a view to monitoring in the best way possible the observance of the separation of troops and the subsequent demilitarization of the area.

(d) The Montevideo Declaration reiterated the validity of the cease-fire, the separation and concentration of forces at the points agreed at Itamaraty, and the immediate deployment of military observers of the guarantor countries.

(e) With the concentration in Coangos of the Ecuadorian troops that had been stationed in the conflict zone, particularly at Base Sur and Tiwintza, an operation about which the international community was informed through the international press, Ecuador has complied with its part of the process of separation of troops called for in the aforementioned Declarations.

(f) In accordance with the Itamaraty Declaration, it is now time to establish a totally demilitarized area that will help consolidate peace in the zone and begin the phase of the demobilization of the armed forces of the two countries. Ecuador will continue to cooperate with the signatories of the Declarations of Itamaraty and Montevideo in order to ensure the successful outcome of the peace process currently in progress.

(g) The Government of Ecuador considers that the Itamaraty and Montevideo Declarations constitute an important and, so far, successful contribution to the end of confrontations in Alto Cenepa. Nevertheless, the normalization of relations between Ecuador and Peru will still require additional efforts. Unfortunately, the two countries still differ with regard to territorial matters owing to legal shortcomings and the impossibility of implementing the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol in one geographic sector. In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that Ecuador is prepared, as it always has been, to discuss ways of solving the problem with a view to promoting the peaceful and final settlement of its disputes with Peru.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Luis VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ
Permanent Representative